

TREATMENT OF SCOTTISH HISTORY

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for a despotism/ ¹ A third writes : ⁴ William was the only Scottish sovereign since the Reformation who had governed the country in an entirely reasonable spirit ; and, however little appreciated by his English subjects, as the champion of Protestantism who had overthrown the wretched government of the Stewarts, he enjoyed the popularity in Scotland which was little obscured by the shadow of Giencoe, and which his enforced attitude on the Darien question did not seriously Impair.^{7 2}

My own view is that William was not really popular in either Scotland or England, and could not be. The Scots wished to be governed according to Scottish ideas, the English according to English ideas : in. both countries William sought to impose ideas of his own. The King, wrote Secretary Johnstone, ^e has his rules and often verry hidden ones, if you can comply with them, you can serve him ; if not, you can not, he will not part with them.^{7 3} In each country he endeavoured to be the king of the nation, not the king of a party: in England he governed sometimes through the Whigs, sometimes through the Tories, sometimes through a combination of both. In Scotland he tried to follow a similar plan. But in neither was he thoroughly a national sovereign; the Scots felt that he sacrificed Scottish to English interests* the English that he

sacrificed English
to European interests. The larger community
came first in
his mind. Such a king by the breadth of his
views might
render great services to the nations he ruled,
but was not
likely to give satisfaction to all classes or to
win popularity,

¹ Brown, History of Scotland, ill, 33-4.

- W. L. Mathieson, Scotland and the Union (1905), p.
70.

³ Hope **Johnstone MSS.** p. 97.